

Studley Infants' School

Top Tips for
Starting School
for
Families Who Parent Apart



Starting Nursery and School is a huge step for both children and parents.

There is so much to remember, so many new people to meet and a whole list of routines to learn. The key to success is being well prepared, informed and organised. This can be daunting for ALL parents and children but doubly so where the parenting is happening in two different homes.

School always has the best interests of the children at the centre of everything we do. Consequently we remain impartial at all times between parents. It is important that you work together to support your child and school.

From experience, children who are parented apart, cope best with transition into School when they have;

- Parents who see CHILDREN as their TOP priority, and are committed to the 'long haul'
- Parents who give their children constructive praise and help them to feel good about themselves
- Parents who maintain routines and connections so that children receive consistent messages and boundaries
- Parents who realise that although their relationship has changed, the needs of their children have not
- Parents who put their childrens' needs first and let their own feelings about each other take a backseat
- Parents who will be flexible, and accommodate each others reasonable requests around the children; who don't argue in front of their children or behave in a stand-offish manner
- Parents who put their energy into thinking about how to make their childrens' time with them meaningful

We have a high level of children who are parented in two homes and in blended families. It is essential that we are informed about with who and where your child resides, in order to be able to contact you in an emergency. Also, we can only offer one Parent Consultation per child at Parents' Evenings.

Our expectations are listed below.

Where possible, please both.....

- Attend performances children are in, assemblies, pantomime
- Support school functions and social events e.g. fayres etc
- Support childrens learning
 - sign reading diary
 - contribute to journal
 - attend parent consultations together
- Make sure children have the correct equipment each day, e.g. book bag, PE kit
- Provide school with written collection arrangements
- Work with the school to adhere to our Behaviour Policy
- Be aware of school life
 - use the website
 - sign up to email

Going back and forth between households can be a real challenge for children

- Please help your children by preparing them:
 - tell them when they are going in advance
 - count down the sleeps
 - have a visual calendar
 - make sure they are in good spirits and well rested - don't keep them up until midnight!

We hope you find this leaflet useful. In addition you may wish to visit the following website www.separatedfamilies.info/.